

Date: April 5, 2004

To: Interested Parties

From: Joyce Allen, Director
Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Subject: Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Emergency Rule

CCS is a new program for Wisconsin that utilizes Medicaid psychosocial rehabilitation funds to assist counties in funding services to consumers who have mental disorders, substance-use disorders or co-occurring mental and substance-use disorders. This benefit will allow counties to collect the approximately 60% FFP for service facilitation and allowable direct services to consumers. The reimbursement methodology is being developed separately but concurrently. The Department will provide information on the reimbursement methodology, as it becomes available.

The Comprehensive Community Services Emergency Rule was developed in conjunction with an advisory workgroup comprised of county staff, consumers, family members, advocates and state staff. The intent was to create a rule that is fiscally responsible, promotes recovery and supports a broad array of services and supportive activities. Each participating county or tribe will develop its own CCS plan and service array, based upon the needs of the consumers and building on the services already available.

It was our intent that an extensive review by interested parties would precede the issuing of the Emergency and Permanent Rules for CCS. Because this is an election year, the Legislature accepts rules for review only through the summer. Consequently, it was necessary to submit the Emergency and Permanent Rule simultaneously and without the thorough review that we had anticipated.

In an effort to gather input from a variety of interested parties, we will hold a series of informational meetings with consumers, advocates, counties, tribes and providers. The purpose of these meetings is to facilitate discussion between the public and Department staff regarding the intent of the rule and to address the questions and concerns of the interested parties. It is our expectation that these discussions will result in a Permanent Rule that effectively meets the needs of consumers and counties. Through the combination of informational meetings and the required Public Hearings, interested parties will be able to provide input to the Department regarding potential rule language revisions that would strengthen the Permanent Rule.

The CCS Advisory Workgroup will be meeting later this month to discuss the Emergency Rule and to make recommendations regarding the dissemination of information about the rule, the public hearing process and the implementation plan.

As you study the Emergency Rule, you will find that it provides for a range of clinical services and psychosocial rehabilitation services for a maximum reduction of symptoms of mental or substance-use or co-occurring disorders and for the restoration of the consumer to the optimum level of functioning possible. CCS programs will be able to provide psychosocial rehabilitation services across the lifespan. CCS is frequently described as a range of services appropriate for consumers who need more than outpatient services and less than a Community Support Program.

At this time, the Emergency Rule for CCS has been completed and sent to the Legislative Clearinghouse. It will be available on our website at www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/mh_bcmh/index.htm. Attached is an electronic copy for your review.

The Emergency Rule will go into effect July 1 and will expire on November 28th. We anticipate that the Permanent Rule will go into effect prior to the November 28 expiration of the Emergency Rule.

As plans are solidified for the informational meetings about the rule, details will be shared. We are also aware that there will be questions and concerns about implementation of the rule. We will share

the details related to informational and training opportunities, as they become available. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns, please contact one of the following people:

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